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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,312	05/14/2001	Thomas A. Kodenkandath	05770-156001 / AMSC-554	8789
26161	7590	10/30/2003	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC 225 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON, MA 02110			BRUNSMAN, DAVID M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1755

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/855,312	KODENKANDATH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David M Brunzman	1755	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 45-50,59-62,64,65,85,87 and 89-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 45-50,59-62,64,65,85,87 and 89-95 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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Applicants' response, including amendment, filed 10 October 2003 has been carefully considered, but not found persuasive. Applicants objections are addressed in the individual rejections set forth below.

Applicant is advised that should claim 64 be found allowable, claim 87 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 45, 46, 47, 85 and 90-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5071833.

The reference teaches a precursor composition for forming yttrium barium copper oxide superconductors comprising yttrium acetate, barium trifluoroacetate and copper propionate. See column 9, line 7 through column 15, line 2; and examples I-IV. The instant claims are to a composition in the form of a solution. The prior art teaches preferred solvents therein include materials such as THF and lower alcohols (see column 17). The instant specification discloses preferred embodiments of the solvents assumed to form solutions exhibiting the recited properties of the solutions formed including materials such as THF and lower alcohols (page 3, line 17). It is clear that the prior art discloses compositions in the form of solutions comprising

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similar precursors and similar solvents to those of the instant invention. The properties recited in the instant claims would necessarily exhibit these same properties as the properties of a composition are inseparable from the composition. In the alternative, critical disclosure of limitations necessary to exhibit the recited properties is missing from the instant claims and specification. The mere failure of a reference to disclose all the advantages asserted by applicant is not a substitute for actual difference in properties. *In re DeBlauwe*, 222 USPQ 191. An apparently old composition cannot be converted into an unobvious one simply by the discovery of a characteristic that one cannot glean from the cited prior art. *Titanium Metals Corporation v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 48, 49, 50, 59-65 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5071833 as applied above, and further in view of US Patent 5304533.

The difference between US 5071833 and the instant claims is the addition of a Lewis Base such as an amine or ammonia to the composition. US 5304533 teaches that a base such as an amine or ammonia (See claim 6) may be added to metallorganic precursor compositions for forming yttrium barium copper oxide superconductors in order to promote hydrolysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add a base, such as ammonia, to the composition of 5071833 because the prior art teaches hydrolysis would be promoted.

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Applicants' response includes the simple statement that the processes of each reference are different. Applicants' response does not set forth the manner in which the processes differ. Both processes require hydrolysis of the precursors on the way to oxide formation. A compound known to promote hydrolysis of similar precursors in similar solvents would be expected to promote hydrolysis in the process of the primary reference. No evidence has been presented that one of ordinary skill in the art would not expect said amine or ammonia to promote hydrolysis in the process of the primary reference.

Claims 45, 48 and 90-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5304533.

The reference teaches precursor compositions comprising a rare earth metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, copper carboxylate and a base such as an amine or ammonia. See the claims. The instant claims are to a composition in the form of a solution. The prior art teaches preferred solvents therein include materials such as THF and lower alcohols (see column 5, lines 65-66). The instant specification discloses preferred embodiments of the solvents assumed to form solutions exhibiting the recited properties of the solutions formed including materials such as THF and lower alcohols (page 3, line 17). It is clear that the prior art discloses compositions in the form of solutions comprising similar precursors and similar solvents to those of the instant invention. The properties recited in the instant claims would necessarily exhibit these same properties as the properties of a composition are inseparable from the composition. In the alternative, critical disclosure of limitations necessary to exhibit the recited properties is missing from the instant claims and specification. The mere failure of a reference to disclose all the advantages asserted by applicant is not a substitute for actual difference in properties. *In re*

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DeBlauwe, 222 USPQ 191. An apparently old composition cannot be converted into an unobvious one simply by the discovery of a characteristic that one cannot glean from the cited prior art. *Titanium Metals Corporation v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773.

Claims 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4956340.

The reference teaches a precursor composition comprising a rare earth metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, a transition metal salt such as copper propionate and a base such as an amine or ammonia. See column 1, lines 51-59 and example 1. The instant claims are to a composition in the form of a solution. The prior art teaches preferred solvents therein include water (see column 17). The instant specification discloses preferred embodiments of the solvents assumed to form solutions exhibiting the recited properties of the solutions formed including water as a solvent (page 3, line 17). It is clear that the prior art discloses compositions in the form of solutions comprising similar precursors and similar solvents to those of the instant invention. The properties recited in the instant claims would necessarily exhibit these same properties as the properties of a composition are inseparable from the composition. In the alternative, critical disclosure of limitations necessary to exhibit the recited properties is missing from the instant claims and specification. The mere failure of a reference to disclose all the advantages asserted by applicant is not a substitute for actual difference in properties. *In re DeBlauwe*, 222 USPQ 191. An apparently old composition cannot be converted into an unobvious one simply by the discovery of a characteristic that one cannot glean from the cited prior art. *Titanium Metals Corporation v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773.

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THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

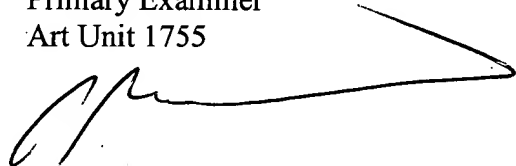
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M Brunsman whose telephone number is 703-308-3454. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, F, Sa; 6:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Bell can be reached on 703-308-3823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

David M Brunsman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1755



DMB